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center section located approximately half-way between said proximal and distal ends, said stent having two types of circumferentially extending sets of strut members, a first type of set of strut members and a second type of set of strut members, the first type of set of strut members having a shorter total circumferential length as compared to the total circumferential length of the second type of set of strut members, the stent when radially deployed to its nominal diameter having the first type of set of strut members having greater radial rigidity as compared to the second type of set of strut members.

19.(New) The stent of claim 18 wherein the connectors are disposed at an oblique angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

20.(New) The stent of claim 18 wherein the circumferentially extending closed structure is in the form of a cylindrical zig-zag.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been canceled and new claims 9-18 have been added. Support for new claims 9-20 is found in Fig. 4 of the specification as well as on page 5, lines 4-8 of the specification. Further support for new claim 12 is found on page 1, lines 22-24 and 30 of the specification. Further support for new claim 13 and 14 is found in the specification on page 5, lines 10-12. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.607(c), Applicant notes that many of the above claims correspond substantially to claims from US 5,913,895 to Burpee et al., issued June 22, 1999. A table indicating the correspondence is provided below.

<u>Claim in instant application</u>	<u>Claim in Burpee</u>
9	1
10	2
11	9
12	13
13	14
18	1

Applicant notes, however, that the correspondence identified above is not intended to constitute a statement that the scope of the claims is identical.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

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By:



Jonathan Grad

Registration No.: 41,795

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9131
Telephone: (612) 563-3000
Facsimile: (612) 563-3001
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